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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OPR-02 EB-07
/066 W
----------021748Z 095311 /40
O R 021506Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0054
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: REACTION TO SUAREZ' U.S. VISIT

1. AS REPORTED IN DETAIL BY USIS MADRID (SEPTEL), THE PRIME MINISTER'S U.S. VISIT WAS DESCRIBED IN GENERALLY PROUD AND ENTHUSIASTIC TERMS BY THE MADRID PRESS, WHICH PORTRAYED THIS FIRST VISIT BY A SPANISH HEAD OF GOVT TO THE U.S. AS YET ANOTHER -- AND PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT -- TESTIMONEY TO SPAIN'S DOMESTICAL POLITICAL STRIDES AND NEW INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY.

2. WHILE THE PRESS WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT SUAREZ
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APPARENTLY CAME AWAY FROM HIS NEW YORK MEETINGS WITH BUSINESSMEN AND FINANCIERS WITH NOTHING TANGIBLE IN HAND, HIS STRAIGHTFORWARD PRESENTATION TO THEM -- WHICH WAS VIEWED HERE AS DEMONSTRATING THAT HE HAD NOT GONE HAT-IN-HAND -- AND THEIR REPORTEDLY WARM RECEPTION FOR HIM WERE SEEN TO AUGUR WELL FOR PRIVATE U.S. ASSISTANCE, IN THE FORM OF LOANS AND INVESTMENT, OVER THE NEAR TERM.

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3. BUT SUAREZ' MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS UNDER-
STANDABLY THE HIGH POINT, AND IT WAS THE SUBJECT OF A
HEAVY MEDIA BLITZ. THE PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSED ENTHUSIASM
FOR AND PRIDE IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS AND HIS
VISIBLY AFFECTIONATE RECEPTION OF SUAREZ (PHOTOS OF THE
TWO SMILING HEADS OF GOVT, WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ARM AROUND
SUAREZ' SHOULDERS, WERE EVERYWHERE) CONSTITUTED THE CENTER-
PIECE FOR GLOWING, LENGTHY ACCOUNTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DAY
IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH ONCE AGAIN THE PRESS POINTED OUT
THAT SUAREZ CAME AWAY WITH NOTHING TANGIBLE, HE WAS NOT
PORTRAYED AS HAVING GONE WITH ANY PARTICULAR SHOPPING LIST,
AND THE PRESS WAS QUITE CONTENT TO SEE THE WASHINGTON STOP
AS THE APPROPRIATE AND HIGHLY DESIRABLE "FIRST CONTACT"
BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF "TWO NEW ADMINISTRATIONS."

4. WHILE THE INEVITABLE LINKAGES WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN
SUAREZ' IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT (SEPTEL) OF HIS ELECTORAL
INTENTIONS AND HIS U.S. VISIT (PARTICULARLY THE
WHITE HOUSE MEETING), THERE HAS BEEN A MINIMUM OF ASSERTIONS,
EVEN IN THE ALIANZA POPULAR-LINING "ABC" (WHICH SNIPED AT SOME
ASPECTS OF THE TRIP), THAT THE USG WAS INTERJECTING ITSELF IN
SPANISH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SUAREZ HIMSELF DEFUSED ANY CHARGES
THAT THE USG HAD INFLUENCED HIS DECISION WHEN HE LET IT BE
KNWON TO THE PRESS THROUGHOUT HIS TRIP -- BEGINNING SHORTLY
AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM MADRID FOR MEXICO (MADRID 3192) -- THAT HE
ALREADY HAD MADE UP HIS MIND AND WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS
DECISION TO THE NATION ON HIS RETURN. HIS STATESMANLIKE
PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT FURTHER UNDERCUT ANY ATTEMPT TO
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PORTRAY HIS TRIP AS AN OVERLY PARTISAN MANEUVER ON HIS PART.
EVEN SUAREZ' POLITICAL ADVERSARIES VIEW THE VISIT AS UNDER-
STANDABLE EVEN IF, FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, POLITICALLY UNDER-
SIRABLE, AND NO ONE EXCEPT FRAGA'S AP APPEARS PARTICULARLY
EXERCISED OVER THE ELECTROAL BOOST THAT IT HAS GIVEN HIM.
(AN AP FIGURE EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF HIS PARTICULAR CONCERN
OVER SUAREZ' POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF THE TRIP FOR ELECTORAL
PURPOSES.)

5. IN SUM, THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WAS A PLUS FOR ALL
CONCERNED, AND NOT THE LEAST FOR THE USG WHICH WAS ABLE TO
DEMONSTRATE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION
ITS SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS, AND, BY SO DOING,
THAT IT IS IN TUNE WITH THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE VAST MAJORITY
OF SPANIARDS, WHO ALSO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR OWN SUPPORT FOR
THE PROCESS.EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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